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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 13, 1969

Mr. Jack Maury
General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

We have answered the enclosed correspondence by stating that we find these allegations incredible and presposterous. At the same time, it would be good to have a note from you if you agree with our judgment.

Sincerely yours,

CM
Carl Marcy

CM:mmm

Enclosure

MOUVEMENT UNIFIE BELGE

COMMITTEE ON

DES ETUDIANTS FRANCOPHONES

AUG 8 1969

61, rue Belliard, Bruxelles 4

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Belgium

Brussels, August 3rd, 1969

Senator FULBRIGHT

United States Congress

Washington D.C.

Sir,

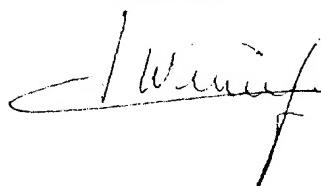
An article published by the English student paper 'The Black Dwarf' is causing some emotion among the students in Western Europe. This article, a copy of which you will find joined to this letter, suggests that the massacre of Indian tribes in Brazil would be related to the action of the Government of the United States, of its agencies and of prominent American trade companies in that country.

Considering your reputation of honesty and good will, the Belgian Students wish you to help them to understand what part the United States took in this painful affair, in order to put an end to horrible suspicions

Sincerely yours,

Ludo Wirix,

president of MUBEF



BRAZIL

THE CORPORATIONS

On February 23, an extensive and impressive article by Norman Lewis covered the centre pages of the *Sunday Times* magazine. It presented a realistic and shocking account of the sufferings, exploitation, and massacre of the one million Brazilian Indians over the past hundred years; an account which deserves to be read.

Our concern is not to correct or contest what Mr Lewis has said, but to indicate what he singularly and unpardonably omits to point out: the deep and unmistakeable involvement of American interests in the evils perpetrated in the Amazonian region.

Mr Lewis makes it clear that, during the colonial period, Spain and Portugal became 'parasitic nations who could no longer feed themselves', and gives a graphic account of the criminal dealings of the British-owned Amazon Company, which, around the turn of the century, employed slave labour, imposed on its workers penalties ranging from the cutting off of ears to the death sentence itself, and was directly responsible for the death of 30,000 natives in the Amazon's upper basin.

But how does he explain the evils which are committed today? In the century of Auschwitz and Lidice, in the decade of the Vietnam war, he resigns himself to statements such as 'There is something remote and shadowy about horror on so vast a scale'; or blurts out the question, unanswered, 'Why all this pointless cruelty?'

There are answers easy to find. Had Mr Lewis checked more closely the records of land speculation, of the appropriation of Indian reserves, and of obscure market dealings over the last few years in Brazil, he would have noticed the increasingly vast estates owned by the United Fruit Company, the avidity of Mr. John Rockefeller during the partition of the cake, and the vast amount of strategic metals and raw materials smuggled out of Amazonia to places such as US Air Bases in the Panama Canal Zone.

In April 1968, in a pathetic speech which later cost him his seat in the Government-appointed Parliament, Deputy Haroldo Verose pointed out to the Brazilian public that during the years of the big land-rush 1965-68, one eighth of Brazilian territory had been bought by 'Foreign Interests' at absurdly low prices... one-third of the huge state of Bahia was already directly owned by US companies. He also estimated (through information given to him by Brazilian air-force officers) that raw materials worth 4 times the Brazilian national budget (including heavy 'anti-guerrilla' military expenditures) of 1966 had simply been extracted and taken out of the country by American smugglers in collusion

with local military authorities and landlords, without paying any duties or taxes.

Among those materials were minerals such as thorium and uranium from Amapa, monazitic sands from Ceara and gold from Alto Tapajoz that had no other customers than US Government agencies.

For a long time, these extremely serious disclosures made by Mr. Verose were suppressed and minimized by the military dictatorship (established by the CIA-backed right-wing in April '64). It is significant that it was Castello Branco's government which, in early 1965 passed a law which only today is being understood in its full significance: instead of the rigid control over the direct transfer of dividends and profits from Brazil to the United States, a tax exemption was allowed for all surplus profits allocated for re-investment in industry/the purchase of land-estates in Brazil. By now, it is agreed that this was part of the reward the Castello Branco military clique had to pay for the help received from the US State Department and the CIA during the coup d'état of 1964.

A great part of the land which so interested 'Wall Street' corporations was granted, by the old Brazilian Constitution, to the Indian Tribes and missionary settlements all over the Amazonian Forest and further south into the State of Mato Gross. The way to buy off this area cheaply was to prove that there were no more Indians left there, without hinting however at the vast reserves of raw materials the buyer's expedition had previously discovered. The land-grabbers could easily hire all sorts of adventurers and corrupt army personnel, as well as exploit the long-standing hate of the Landlords for the Indian tribes, to hasten the extermination of the native inhabitants.



Any means are justified which fulfil the civilising mission of Uncle Sam: large-scale mass vaccinations of infectious diseases during "medical help" operations under the cover of the Peace Corps and other philanthropic

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institutions; gifts of 'smallpox-infected clothes or sugar mixed with arsenic. Where 'charity' failed, more direct methods of extermination, like bombing with napalm, blowing up villages with dynamite or machine-gun blasts over the river banks were employed. Because it was hard to get Cintas Largas Indians scattered over the forests, anthropologists (respectable academics from well-known universities) gave a hint to the upper reaches of the Aripuana. So, the 'bandits' quickly got hold of aeroplanes and bombed the tribes to death. The last survivors were later machine-gunned by a land expedition during the next Quarup day. There is a painful and remarkable coincidence between this brutal crime and the fate of the Basque village of Guernica in 1936. The same press which was so fanatical in stressing the German character of fascism to cover its true reactionary-exploitative nature, is now silent. 90,000 Indians have been killed during the past few years, but Mr. Lewis would wish us to believe that, 'of the present excellent intentions of the Brazilian government there can be no doubt'

What are the real intentions of the governments concerned?

The American Green Berets are already installed in a base in the north of Brazil, near Natal, for 'missile-training'. All over the Amazonian region huge air-fields are being built by the 'smugglers' where transport-aeroplanes take their daily load of strategic materials. Fantastic plans about the future of Amazonia have been publicized. Among these is the plan of the 'Great Amazonian Lake', a fabulous new frontier for American big business. Under their auspices the New Promised Land would be 'internationalized' and, at least once, there have been suggestions to re-settle Vietnamese refugees (from US napalm bombing) in this new 'homeland', offering them employment and living conditions far above 'the Asian standard'. Like the old Roman Emperors, Washington's Third World experts are dreaming of organizing large-scale population 're-settlements' towards the safer and still unexploited corners of their empire. The 'loss of Asia' seems already a gloomy and inevitable event to some of the devisors of 'special warfare' and 'pacification programmes'. To minimize their frustration, they talk about a 'perfect marriage' which could take place between the Asian labour surplus and the wasted, empty spaces of South America. This, believe the most bold proposers of the Amazonian adventure, could suffocate the National Liberation Movements in the Third World for a long, long period 'for at least a century'.

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co-existence', point out to the Amazonian Jungle's formidable capacity for the absorption of radio-activity. They already have visions of the whole staff of the Pentagon, the top CIA and, if need be, the President of the US directing a total war on Communism from their new safe, H-bomb proof Amazonian headquarters.



This view is, for the time being, only defended by a tiny minority of 'utopians' – and, even by them, it is seen just as a last resort, an escape-valve for the world's power-elite.

One thing is, however, absolutely clear: from a few strategically localized bases in Amazonia, the US could easily hit the guerrilla movements in Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and – eventually – in Paraguay and Brazil itself. Air-borne troops could easily reach in a couple of hours places like Caracas, Bogota, Lima, LaPaz, Recife and even Rio de Janerio. It has been suggested by Brazilian military officials that the already existing 'clandestine' reserves of smuggler air-fields would permit the Americans to rush in thousands of troops from the Panama Canal Zone in case of an emergency.

Official figures already account for ninety thousand deaths among the Indians. Unofficial estimates suggest that two hundred thousand may have perished. This, however, for the world's press, is just an accident, having no real explanation – and a stern warning to those who stand in the way of world pacification, or are obstacles to the civilising mission of US capital.